

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on June 6, 2003, the examiner objected to claims 15 and 21 because of informalities. Claims 15 and 21 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-10 and 16-21 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15 of copending application Serial No. 09/957,854. Claims 1-10 and 16-21 have been cancelled. Additionally, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321 (c) has been filed.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-10 have been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Renner. Claims 1 and 16 have been cancelled.

Claims 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brinker et al. Claims 11-15 have been cancelled.

Claims 2 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Renner in view of Baker. Claims 2 and 17 have been cancelled.

Applicants have added new claims 22-32. Applicants respectfully submit new claims 22-32 are patentable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Allowance of claims 22-32 is respectfully requested. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced by these additions to the claims. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be resolved by a telephone conference, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

In the unlikely event that the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required as a result of this statement, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due to our Deposit account no # 12-0695. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/14, 2003

By: Ann M. Lee
Ann M. Lee
Registration No. 47,741

Lawrence Livermore National Lab
7000 East Avenue, L-703
Livermore, CA 94550

TEL: (925)422-6458

FAX: (925)423-2231